Financial information on terrorism funding

*272. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently discussed with USA about sharing financial information to crack down on terrorism funding?

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the merits and demerits of such an understanding with USA?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) At the fourth meeting of the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, held on 21-22 January in New Delhi, the two sides had detailed discussions, *inter alia,* on financing of terrorist activities and agreed that the widespread use of informal channels for financial flows presents a special challenge to Governments. They agreed that closer cooperation and strengthening mutual capabilities in cutting off financial flows to terrorist organisations will constitute an important component of their counter-terrorism cooperation.

(c) It is well recognised, including in the UN Security Resolution 1373 of 28 September 2001, that international cooperation to deny and disrupt availability of finances to terrorist organisations is an important component of the war against terrorism. It will also contribute to Government's efforts to combat terrorism in India.

Uniform scam

†*273. SHRI MUNNAVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 471 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 2001 and state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.